



CREATING AND SCALING  
GREAT COMPANIES

May 23, 2016

The Honorable Thomas Wheeler  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

At a recent public event, Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel stated that the FCC's NPRM concerning privacy rules for Internet Service Providers is "the kind of subject that is complicated and would benefit from a longer rulemaking." Commissioners Ajit Pai and Michael O'Rielly agreed with her concerns.

For America's broadband economy, the legal complexities involved with this NPRM are serious and far-reaching. Most important, these proposed rules threaten to upend current and future business models necessary to continue funding better, more accessible broadband. That is an extremely important issue for San Diego's start-up and entrepreneur communities and therefore a great concern to CONNECT.

The Commission should know that CONNECT has been San Diego's premier innovation accelerator for decades. We have assisted in the formation and development of more than 3,000 companies and have a reputation for successfully linking entrepreneurs with the resources needed to commercialize innovative products.

For San Diego's entrepreneurs and start-up community, deployment of the latest high-speed broadband technology is a crucial part of successful business plans. As the Commission itself has repeatedly emphasized and as we see firsthand every day, faster broadband creates more economic opportunity. Importantly, anything that curbs deployment of better broadband service threatens this opportunity.

The recent Moody's financial analysis on the Commission's privacy NPRM concluded that it would "severely handicap" Internet providers' efforts to compete with established advertising companies, which do not need to abide by these rules. Moody also concluded that the NPRM rules, if adopted, are "a long-term risk" to the business operations of broadband providers.

All five FCC Commissioners have spoken eloquently about the importance of driving investment in better broadband. That is why we ask that they recognize the problems in the Commission's NPRM that were raised in Moody's report and other studies and take steps to eliminate the risks to broadband investment.

Every day, CONNECT sees the benefits of a vibrant Internet economy. This is vital to future innovations and job growth. We urge the Commission not to move forward with this complicated procedure that is ill-suited to the Internet's future.

Sincerely,

  
Greg McKee  
CEO, CONNECT